



# STATE OF IOWA

TERRY E. BRANSTAD  
GOVERNOR

KIM REYNOLDS  
LT. GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL POLICY  
STEVEN F. LUKAN, DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release  
Thursday, September 27, 2012

Contact:  
Dale Woolery (515) 725-0310

## **Saturday is Time to Clean Out Medicine Cabinet To Prevent Prescription Drug Abuse**

DES MOINES – Saturday, September 29, is the next opportunity for Iowans to clean out medicine cabinets and safely dispose of unused prescription drugs, during the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. This fall's community Take Back events cap off the nation's first ever Medicine Abuse Project, a week-long campaign to build awareness and reduce prescription drug abuse.

"One of the most important steps all of us can take to protect children and other family members from the dangers of prescription drug abuse is to secure medicines at home and safely dispose of medicines we are no longer using," said Iowa First Lady Chris Branstad, a board member of the Partnership @ DrugFreeIowa.org.

"In addition to safely disposing of unused medicines to help solve the growing problem of prescription drug abuse, Saturday is also an opportunity for parents to take five minutes to talk with kids about the dangers of misusing medicines," said Branstad.

Law enforcement agencies, pharmacies, community organizations and volunteers in more than 40 Iowa communities are hosting Prescription Drug Take-Back events Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. A list of Iowa sites where unused medicines will be collected is searchable at [http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback).

"More than 70 percent of Americans who abuse prescription drugs get them from friends or relatives, according to a national study," said Steve Lukan, Director of the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy. "Iowans have safely disposed of more than eight tons of old prescription drugs at four previous Take-Back events over the last couple of years, but continued efforts are required to protect Iowans from intentional medicine abuse and accidental overdose."

For tips on how to safely secure and dispose of medicines, and additional information on how to help reduce prescription drug abuse in Iowa, go to [www.iowa.gov/odcp](http://www.iowa.gov/odcp).

###